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Monograph ~ V

Migration and Economic Development in Zimbabwe



KONRAD
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by Medicine Masiwa
and Alois Chilunjika

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Contents

About the Authors	5
Executive Summary	7
1.1 Migration defined	7
1.2 The Zimbabwean context	9
1.3 Zimbabwe's Migration flows: Patterns and causal factors	10
1.4 Trends and key drivers	15
1.5 Socio-politico-economic crisis in Zimbabwe	17
1.6 Benefits of migration for Zimbabwe	20
1.6.1 Employment opportunities	21
1.6.2 Knowledge and skills transfer and entrepreneurship	23
1.6.3 Increasing income	24
1.6.3.1 Remittances	24
1.6.3.2 Remittances in different national contexts	25
1.6.3.3 Applicability to Zimbabwean context	29
1.6.4 Improving living and working conditions	30
1.6.5 Family resources	30
1.6.6 Education	31
1.6.7 Export of goods and services	32
1.7 Negative effects of migration on Zimbabwe	33
1.7.1.1 Brain drain	33
1.7.1.2 Loss of human capital	33
1.7.1.3 Skills flight	34
1.7.2 Disfunctional families	36
2.1 Humanitarian assistance	36
2.2 Foreign Direct Investment and Corporate Governance	36
2.3 Investment, Trade Policy, Tax Policy	37

3.1 Harnessing the positive impacts	38
3.1.1 Policy framework	38
3.1.1.1 National Diaspora Policy	39
3.1.1.2 National Labour Migration Policy	40
3.1.1.3 National Immigration Policy	40
3.2 Regional and International Policy Frameworks	42
3.2.1 Political Participation	43
3.2.3 Institutional Framework	44
3.2.4 Bilateral Agreements	45
3.2.5 International Co-operation	46
4.1 Conclusion	46
References	47

Tables and Figures

Table 1: The distribution of migrants by company on migration and sex, Zimbabwe 2019 LFCLS	16
Table 2: Migration trends from 2000 – 2015	19
Table 3: Top 10 highest remittance receiving countries in Africa (USD\$ billion), 2019	28
Figure 1: Zimbabwe: Unemployment rate from 1999 to 2020	20

3.1 Harnessing the positive impacts	38
3.1.1 Policy Framework	38

About the Authors

Medicne Masiwa holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from University of Rostock, Germany. He has over 20 years' experience and demonstrated high-level knowledge of international trade issues, migration, economic development and the Diaspora. Formerly a research fellow with the Institute of Development Studies, University of Zimbabwe (UZ), he has provided high-level policy advisory, project management and capacity building services to Governments, private sector organisations and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa.

Alouis Chilunjika is the current Chairperson of the Department of Politics and Public Management at the Midlands State University. A holder of a PhD in Public Management and Governance from the University of Johannesburg, his research interests include public management, public sector corporate governance, economic growth and politics. Dr. Chilunjika has published some articles on corruption, land reform and road tolling.

Executive Summary

Zimbabwe has a long history of migration which can be traced back to the 1980s. In the past two decades the country has lost a significant number of skilled and semi-skilled workers who migrated to countries such as United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA), Canada, Australia, South Africa (SA) and Botswana in search of greener pastures. Moreover, Zimbabwe has also seen an upsurge in irregular migration and mixed migration flows. The massive exodus in the 2000s was prompted by, for instance, a deteriorating economy, political turmoil and starvation. Nevertheless, continue to support their immediate and extended family members back home and they continue to contribute to economic growth and development through return of skills, remittances, investment project and co-development projects, etc. Highly qualified professionals such as teachers, engineers, nurses and doctors are an important source of investment capital and trade for Zimbabwe. However, the diaspora community is concerned about the poor access to investment and trade related information. Legal frameworks such the National Labour Migration Policy were formulated to make it easier for less skilled people to seek work abroad and offer them social protection, while at the same time strengthening mechanisms for harnessing remittances for economic development. Indeed, generally, migration is being recognised as a major human development issue which, depending on local contextual factors and how the migration process is managed, can either contribute towards or hinder socio-economic development in Zimbabwe.

1.1 Migration defined

Migration is connected to the wider global economic, social, political and technological transformations that are affecting various policy issues. Zimbabwean migration is understood within the socio-economic context. The monograph seeks to highlight the patterns of migration in Zimbabwe and unearth the reasons for them. It will also clearly outline the effects of migration and the established migration governance framework at policy, institutional and legislative levels and consider how efficacious migration is to Zimbabwe's economic development. It will qualitatively explore both secondary and primary data regarding migration, remittances and developmental issues and seek to feed into the policy making machinery they can better harness the benefits of migration to the advantage of